BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-6204 OCTOBER 13, 1978
CLAUDIO ESKENAZI

THIS WEEK NO. 41

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS--------.

NARR:

THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TALKS WERE OFFICIALLY OPENED THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON BY PRESIDENT CARTER. THE CEREMONY TOOK PLACE IN THE WHITE HOUSE, WHERE JUST LAST MONTH THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THE RESULTS OF THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT MEETING. MISTER CARTER WAS JOINED BY THE LEADERS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS ALREADY IN WASHINGTON FOR THE PEACE TALKS -- EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER KAMAL HASSAN ALI AND ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN.

MISTER CARTER PLEDGED HIS OWN DIRECT SUPPORT FOR THE TALKS ADDING THAT HE HOPED THEY WOULD LEAD TO A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- CARTER

"WE WILL WORK, HAND IN HAND, WITH ALL INVOLVED PARTIES UNTIL THE JOB IS DONE AND PEACE IS ASSURED. MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN, MINISTER KAMAL HASSAN ALI, MINISTER EZER WEIZMAN, MINISTER BUTROS GHALI, THE EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI AND AMERICAN PEOPLES, AND PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ARE DEPENDING ON YOU NOW. OUR ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE. MY OWN PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IS ASSURED TO YOU. OUR HOPES ARE WITH YOU, AND OUR PRAYERS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH."

NARR:

THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TALKS WILL FOLLOW THE FRAMEWORK AGREED UPON LAST MONTH AT THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT WHICH AIMS AT A PEACE TREATY BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. ALTHOUGH GENERAL PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN SET FORTH AND AGREED UPON, MANY OF THE

DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT HOW LONG THE PEACE TALKS WILL LAST.

PRESIDENT CARTER HOPES THAT MORE THAN JUST AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT WILL EMERGE FROM THE TALKS. HE MADE IT CLEAR EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT HE EXPECTS THE DISCUSSIONS WILL ALSO INCLUDE PROGRESS TOWARD COMPREHENSIVE MIDEAST PEACE ARRANGEMENTS -- INCLUDING DISCUSSION OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS ISRAEL'S FUTURE RELATIONS WITH JORDAN, SYRIA AND THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD.

AFTER THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI DELEGATIONS ON THURSDAY, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE REPORTED GOOD PROGRESS BOTH IN THE THREE-WAY MEETINGS AND IN THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE TALKS HAD MOVED BEYOND THE PROCEDURAL STAGE AND WERE NOW GETTING DOWN TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

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RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH AND ONE OF THE THREE BLACK MEMBERS NDABANINGI SITHOLE OF HIS TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUE THEIR CAMPAIGN IN THE UNITED STATES THIS WEEK TO WIN AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT. MISTER SMITH SAID HE IS PLEASED WITH THE RECEPTION HE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND A NUMBER OF CONGRESSMEN. BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN WINNING THE SUPPORT OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

EARLIER IN THE WEEK MISTER SMITH MET WITH SECRETARY VANCE, BUT BOTH SIDES LATER SAID NO PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE TALKS. MISTER SMITH ALSO SUGGESTED HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, BUT THE PRESIDENT SAID HE DID NOT INTEND TO MEET WITH THE RHODESIAN DELEGATION. LATER MISTER SMITH SAID HE IS WILLING

TO ATTEND AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA, BUT ONLY IF THERE IS A CHANCE FOR SUCCESS. HE ADDED THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO HOLD FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS, BUT COMPLAINED THAT HE IS RECEIVING NO HELP OR ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES.

MEANWHILE, RHODESIA'S INTERIM GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT ALL RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE COUNTRY WILL BE LIFTED. BUT THE NEW MEASURES DO NOT GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. SOME OF THE MEASURES HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO MEET IN LATE NOVEMBER, AND OTHERS WILL HAVE TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE MAJORITY-RULE CONSTITUTION WHICH WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE ONLY AFTER THE TRANSFER OF POWER FROM WHITES TO BLACKS. VOA CORRESPONDENT BOB CHANCELLOR REPORTS:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- CHANCELLOR

"THE ANNOUNCEMENT ENDS ALL DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING, LAND OWNERSHIP, HOSPITAL CARE AND EDUCATION. DISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC PLACES SUCH AS THEATERS, HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS WAS REMOVED IN AUGUST. BUT SOURCES IN SALISBURY SAY THE NEW PROPOSAL STOPS SHORT OF ORDERING COMPULSORY INTEGRATED EDUCATION FOR RHODESIA'S QUARTER MILLION WHITES AND SEVEN MILLION BLACKS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE COUNTRY CANNOT AFFORD IT. THE NEW DECISION ALSO DOES NOT MAKE IT ILLEGAL FOR LANDLORDS TO REFUSE HABITATION BECAUSE OF RACE."

NARR: (OPT)

EARLIER IN THE WEEK, THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTED A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING REGRET AND CONCERN OVER THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO ALLOW IAN SMITH TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES. THE RESOLUTION CONSIDERS THE DECISION CONTRARY TO SECURITY COUNCIL SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA WHICH FORBID THE ENTRY OF RHODESIANS WHO SUPPORT THE SALISBURY GOVERNMENT.

U.S. DELEGATE RICHARD PETREE ARGUED THAT A VISA WAS FINALLY ISSUED TO MISTER SMITH BECAUSE IT WOULD PERMIT THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- PETREE

"WHAT THE ISSUANCE OF THE VISA MEANS IS THAT THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL CHANCE TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF MAJORITY RULE AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DECIDED TO VIOLATE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES, RECOGNIZE THE SMITH REGIME, OR LIFT EMBARGOES ON TRADE WITH RHODESIA."

NARR:

MEANWHILE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS STANDING FIRM ON ITS REFUSAL TO PERMIT IAN SMITH TO COME TO BRITAIN AND ARGUE HIS CASE DIRECTLY. (END OPT)

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WEST GERMANY'S CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT WAS IN TOKYO THIS WEEK FOR TALKS WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS. BOTH SIDES VOICED CONCERN OVER THE CURRENT UNREST ON THE WORLD FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS AND RESTATED THEIR EARLIER PLEDGES TO DO THEIR BEST TO HELP STABILIZE THE SITUATION. THIS MEANS JAPAN WILL CONTINUE TRYING TO LOWER ITS SUBSTANTIAL TRADE SURPLUS AND STEP UP DOMESTIC DEMAND WHILE WEST GERMANY ALSO TRIES TO INCREASE ITS DOMESTIC GROWTH RATE. THE LEADERS OF JAPAN AND WEST GERMANY ALSO URGED SUSTAINED EFFORTS BY THE UNITED STATES TO CHECK INFLATION.

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT SAID HIS TALKS WITH JAPANESE LEADERS WERE FRUITFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE WITH BROAD AGREEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MATTERS:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- SCHMIDT

"AS WE AGREED ON SUBJECTS IN OUR DISCUSSIONS, I INFORMED PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA OF OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN EUROPE AND THE EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TOWARD DETENTE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, IN PARTICULAR, TOWARDS DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL. ON MY PART, I WAS GREATLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING FROM THE PRIME MINISTER HOW HE SAW THE SITUATION IN EAST ASIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA."

NARR:

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA WAS IN LONDON THIS WEEK WHERE HE MET WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS, THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA AND TRADE. THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE DECLINED DIRECT COMMENT ON A WARNING BY THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS TO BRITAIN AGAINST SUPPLYING OFFENSIVE WEAPONS TO PEKING. VOA CORRESPONDENT DAVID WILLIAMS REPORTS FROM LONDON:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- WILLIAMS

"TASS SAID SUCH A STEP WOULD CONTRADICT BRITAIN'S COMMITMENT TO DETENTE AND WOULD ENCOURAGE WHAT THE AGENCY TERMED THE AGGRESSIVE MILITARISM OF THE MAOISTS. BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES SAY THE CHINESE HAVE SHOWN AN INTEREST IN THE HARRIER VERTICAL TAKE-OFF JET FIGHTER, BUT SO FAR HAVE MADE NO FIRM OFFERS. AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE SAID THAT NO ARMS REQUEST WERE MADE BY THE CHINESE. BUT HE SAID BRITAIN WILL CONSIDER ANY REQUEST FOR ARMS IN THE LIGHT OF ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH EXIST AT THAT TIME."

NARR:

THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS THIS WEEK VOTED TO IMPOSE A TRADE EMBARGO ON UGANDA AFTER EXTENSIVE HEARINGS INTO ALLEGED MASS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THAT EAST AFRICAN NATION. THE MAIN TARGET OF THE MEASURE IS UGANDAN COFFEE -- KAMPALA'S MAIN SOURCE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE. THE U.S. EMBARGO MAKES IT ILLEGAL FOR AMERICANS TO IMPORT GOODS FROM UGANDA AND IT WOULD ALSO HALT MOST U.S. EXPORTS TO THAT COUNTRY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FOOD.

THE U.S. MEASURE EVOKED A SHARP REACTION FROM UGANDA'S PRESIDENT IDI AMIN -- WHO THREATENED TO TAKE WHAT HE CALLED A VERY DRASTIC AND SERIOUS ACTION AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS LIVING IN UGANDA VERY SOON. MEANWHILE THE GOVERNMENT-OPERATED RADIO KAMPALA ACCUSED THE UNITED STATES OF PURSUING WHAT

IT TERMED A MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE IDI AMIN REGIME.

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IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ASSEMBLED IN ROME LATE IN THE WEEK TO CHOOSE THE NEXT SUCCESSOR TO SAINT PETER. LITTLE OVER ONE MONTH AGO, THE CARDINALS HAD MET TO SELECT POPE PAUL THE SIXTH'S SUCCESSOR, JOHN PAUL THE FIRST. THE NEW PONTIFF DIED OF A SUDDEN HEART ATTACK BARELY ONE MONTH AFTER HIS ELECTION.

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SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE LEFT WASHINGTON LATE IN THE WEEK FOR A THIRTEEN-DAY MISSION WHICH FIRST TAKES HIM TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR TALKS ON NAMIBIA. PRETORIA HAS REJECTED A PLAN SPONSORED BY THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE U.N.'S SECURITY COUNCIL CALLING FOR ELECTIONS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN-HELD TERRITORY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE VANCE TRIP IS SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE SOUTH AFRICA TO GO ALONG WITH THE U.N. PLAN. LATER, THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL JOURNEY TO MOSCOW TO DISUCSS WHAT COULD BE THE FINAL STAGES OF A SALT-TWO TREATY. SEVERAL CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT A NEW SALT AGREEMENT IS NOW WITHIN SIGHT.

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS ----------. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT -------- WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK

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WJL/RD/RCS